

AMONG THE MORMONS.

INTERESTING INTERVIEW WITH MORMON WIVES AND MAIDENS—JESSE SMITH A POLYGAMIST—HOW HE AND HIS CHIEF ELDER KEPT EXTRA WIVES ON THE SIDE—ONE WAS HIS WIFE AND ONLY CHILD—ONE WAS WITH SOME YOUNG DAUGHTERS OF BRIGHAM YOUNG—WHAT THEY BEHOLD "PA" IS AWAY, &c., &c.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE WORLD.

SALT LAKE CITY, November 10.—While seated at the front window of my friend's residence, observing, in company with her, the passers-by, two ladies attracted my attention. One was apparently over forty years of age, attired in a calico dress of dark pattern, and having upon her head a bonnet of by-gone fashion. The other was a young woman, about twenty-five years of age, much better dressed than her companion, and carrying an infant in her arms, apparently about three months old. From the strong likeness existing between the elder woman and the young one, I at once judged that they must be mother and daughter. My friend observed them at the same time, and remarked:

A STRANGE STORY.

"Those two women are mother and daughter, and the wives of one husband."

Observing my look of interest and attention, she continued:

"The oldest was formerly one of Pankey P. Pratt's wives, by whom she had several daughters. The lady accompanying her is the oldest of those daughters. After the death of Pankey P. Pratt, he leaving but very little property to be divided among so many women and children, the wives were placed in very precarious circumstances, and were forced to undertake the most laborious occupations to obtain a livelihood. The one whom we were observing was a third or fourth wife, and with the others, had to obtain a living as best she could. Finally, she received an offer of marriage from a man named Ridgess, but in its acceptance she thought she saw danger to herself and her children. Her daughters were growing up young and good-looking, and she feared that, under the odious church law which permits a man to marry his wife's daughters, Ridgess might some time in the future wish to make them his plural wives, even if he had not already made up his mind to do so. The thought of such an event was agony to the mind of the mother, and she hesitated to return an answer to the proposal of Ridgess. One day Ridgess called at the house where she resided, determined to have a final answer. He was shown into the room, in which were present Mrs. Pratt and two of her oldest daughters. In answer to his request for an acceptance or rejection of his proposal, Mrs. Pratt informed him that, as far as she alone was concerned, she had no objection; but, said she, pointing to her daughters, then about twelve and fourteen years of age, "in these two girls, and my fears for their future, lie the greatest obstacles to my decision. They are now young, but I fear that when they arrive at a marriageable age you will endeavor to make one or both of them your plural wives. I tell you frankly that such an event would break my heart, and make me miserable forever." Ridgess, replied by solemnly promising that he would never seek to marry any of her daughters, and, trusting in that promise, she became his wife. Five years afterwards the oldest daughter, Amanda, had developed into a handsome young lady, and Ridgess, tired of his somewhat faded first wife, and forgetful of the promise he had made, longed for the youthfulness and many charms of her oldest daughter. The mother firmly refused to consent; but the daughter appeared to be a little more than half-way willing. She was, however, restrained by her mother's entreaties and remonstrances from giving her consent to the proposal of Ridgess. The latter now resorted to the meanest and most despicable ploys to force her consent to his demands. He came to her mother's room, and her mind was greatly troubled by trouble and the blow about to fall so heavily upon her, she gave a reluctant assent to the marriage of Amanda to Ridgess. From that time her happiness and peace of mind were destroyed forever, and she became the most miserable of women. But Ridgess seemed to have made up his mind to marry the whole family, and when the second daughter had arrived at a marriageable age, he proposed to make her his third wife. She, however, more sensible than her sister, and knowing, too, that such an event would bring her mother in sorrow to the grave, refused his offer. Again Ridgess renewed his persecutions, and spit out his venom on mother and daughter alike. Seeing that such a course of conduct would soon result in her mother's death, she left the house, determined to maintain herself by school-teaching, in any other honest way of obtaining a living, rather than wrong her mother and do violence to her own feelings by marrying her step-father."

WHO, AFTER READING THE STORY OF WOMAN'S WRONGS AND WOMAN'S SHAME, WILL NOT FERVENTLY Wish THE INIQUOUS SYSTEM WHICH NOW FLOURISHES IN UTAH, OR IN A DEADLY UPSIDE DOWN, MAY SOON BE BLOTTED OUT OF EXISTENCE?

TWO SISTERS WITH THE SAME HUSBAND.

Here come two young women, one of whom I recognize as Mrs. Mary Crosson, the wife of the Superintendent in the Western Union Telegraph office, who was introduced to us in Aunt Zina's room.

"These two young women," said my friend, "are sisters, and both are the wives of Mr. Croxall. Miss Mary Young was married to him first, and a year or two afterwards he married his sister Caroline. The one mentioned as Caroline is a large, heavy built, stout young woman, and, as both were well and fashionably dressed, Mr. Croxall's salary is probably soon exhausted in meeting the expenses of his dual household."

In the afternoon, two ladies called who were introduced to us as Mrs. Ezra T. Benson and her daughter Mrs. Roberts. Mrs. Benson was the first wife of Ezra T. Benson, one of the "twelve apostles" who recently was stricken with polygamy, and suddenly she resides in the town of Logan, Cache Valley, about ninety miles from Salt Lake City, in a northeasterly direction. She is rather below the medium height, small in figure, and bears traces of considerable beauty in her, younger days.

Even now I noticed a faintness in her eyes, which would certainly have a tendency to charm one of the opposite sex, although she must be about forty years of age. Her daughter is a fine young woman, and tall and decidedly good-looking.

"I suppose," said I, turning to Mrs. Roberts, "that you are reconciled to your husband's becoming a Mormon and taking other wives some day?"

"Never," she replied, with a flashing eye. "No woman shall ever enter my house as a wife while I live and continue in it. I am no advocate of, or believer in, polygamy, can assure you. I have seen enough of it to satisfy me fully."

There was no mistaking the look, voice, and manner, with which these words were spoken, and I thought that if this was the spirit and feeling with which the Mormon girls viewed polygamy, the country was safe as far as they were concerned.

LEADING QUESTIONS FOR MORMON YOUNG LADIES.

Her husband is a "Gentile," and in Roberts had been engaged in business in the State of Nevada. In his younger days he had become acquainted with Miss Emma Benson, who, full of life, bright, and sparkling as the rays of the noon-day sun upon the rippling waters of a transparent lake, overflowing with mirth and gladness, captivated the heart of the young man, and he was a victim to cupid's unerring shafts. He paid her a visit at the house of her parents in Logan, and was not long in making up his mind to marry her if he could. In this determination he was aided by Miss Emma's mother and brother, who, as was quite natural, would sooner see her the first and only wife of a Gentile than the fifth or sixth concubine of some lecherous old Mormon. Her apostolic father deserved to be the whole proceeding, sought to quash the engagement and drive his would-be son-in-law from the place. In these efforts he was seconded by an old reprobate named Peter Meacham, the principal bishop of Cache Valley, who, although having other wives, thought that he had an affinity for Miss Benson himself. Upon one occasion a ball was given by the church authorities of the town; it believe it was upon Christmas Eve, Roberts was given by the powers ecclesiastical that no ticket should be sold to Mr. Roberts. But as love is said to laugh at locksmiths, so, in this instance, he scoured the bars which the church dignitaries would place in the way, and Roberts obtained the required cards through his brother-in-law in exchange, Charley Benson. Benson però found, when too late, viz., when Roberts presented himself at the door with his affiance upon one arm and the other extended tickets in hand, that with all his precaution he had been outwitted. A squad of secret policemen was immediately ordered out to catch the daring intruder, and, if necessary, effectually dispose of him. Charley Benson who, knowing the ropes, had kept a close watch upon his father's movements, collected a few of his friends armed with two revolvers apiece, and watched the movements of the policemen, the latter being well known to him. Those present were commanded not to dance when Mr. Roberts and Miss Benson occupied the floor. Charley Benson with his friends

five of BISHOP'S DAUGHTERS.

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